

**Skateboard Advisory Committee
December 17, 2015
Parks & Recreation Office**

Skateboard Advisory Committee Members Present: Michael Cannon, James Duane, Betty Funk, Kathy Hauck, James McCarthy, Jason Smith, Cheryl Tully Stoll

Others: Thomas Begin, and James Snyder - Please see attached sign-in sheet;

Members Absent: Robert McArthur, Joan Rastani, Thomas Bubier

Chairman Jason Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and read the agenda into record.

Update Regarding Skatepark Design Award

Chairman Jason Smith discussed a concern that was brought up to him off-line about a comment made by a representative from Pillar Design to a Committee member after the interview with Pillar Design. The issue was brought up with Town Council and it was requested that any discussions between the Designer and Committee members focuses on Park design moving forward.

Preliminary Site Selection Discussion – Pillar Design

Committee Member James Duane discussed his trip with Mr. Brad Siedlecki, owner of Pillar Design, to visit park locations identified by the Skatepark Advisory Committee during the December 3, 2015 meeting. In addition to these locations, he asked Mr. Siedlecki to look at a second location at Farm Pond Park that could be utilized for a skatepark. This area is next to the accessible playground and across from Longs Complex.

Mr. Siedlecki explained that each site he looked at today are feasible for construction. He believes that Farm Pond North by the bocce courts could have drainage issues as the location is in a low point of the site and would require additional cost and services in order to ensure proper drainage. He does not know what the cost would be as there are plenty of options for drainage. First thing he would need to know are what the setbacks would be from the road and water front. Once this information is known, he can identify what natural features can be incorporated into design. There is parking located at this site but these are the type of questions that would come up during design. His major concern at this site is proper setback from Dudley Road. He would also need to know how the site is going to function on a daily basis to ensure any design will not interfere with ongoing usage.

Mr. Siedlecki discussed Farm Pond South. He liked this location as it is off of the parking lot, very visible and offers safe areas for the Police Department and others to drive in and see into the Park. There are also natural contours that can be designed into the Park, giving it a unique design. Mr. Duane pointed out the location on a map of the area to the Committee and explained the contours and terrain of the area. Mr. Siedlecki explained he typically designs parks to incorporate current trees at sites into the park. Mr. Smith would want a job box left at the site for park users to access brooms to sweep the surface before using it. Mr. Siedlecki explained he would design a park in this area that would avoid the playground. Vice Chairperson Betty Funk asked if there was enough space at this location for a skatepark and if this location would be a safer area than the northern location. Mr. Duane explained he

spoke with the Police Chief about having a safety officer representative review the design and give suggestions on ensuring any Park is safe for users. Committee Member James McCarthy asked if there was other parking in the area that can be utilized for visitors to which Mr. Duane discussed the current parking offered at Loring Arena, the horseshoe lot abutting the Farm Pond South location, and other locations along Dudley Road. Committee Member Kathy Hauck explained if the park was located at the southern Farm Pond portion, it would give more options to families who attend games at the Long's Complex and Loring Arena.

Mr. George Lewis discussed a trip he took to the site with Ms. Judy Grove and explained there are a large number of trees in the area. Alternatively they believe the northern portion has a less amount of trees.

Ms. Heather Bachman asked if there was an opportunity to utilize bathrooms at Loring Arena, to which Mr. Duane explained Loring Arena would be open for use during the season as well as the brick building at the Little League complex that houses bathroom facilities.

Mr. Siedlecki discussed Butterworth Park, focusing on the area that is right next to the tennis courts and playgrounds. This location has very limited space for a park and will lead to challenges due to the amount of space provided. He explained drainage would not be an issue as there is already infrastructure located there. He further explained there will be concerns with abutting neighbors. If there is a baseball game going on at the same time, there could be foul ball dangers similar to the current playground located in this area. Ms. Grove explained she was at the Hudson skatepark and people were complaining about having the playground in close proximity to the skatepark as kids would wander into the area and create a safety concern.

Mr. Siedlecki discussed Mary Dennison, explaining it is a wide open area. He understands it is not shovel-ready and would have to be looked at for a future location. In his opinion, it would not be a site ready for this construction but is highly attractive for the future due to its location, current amenities offered, lights, wide-open spaces, separation from the street, and could potentially be used as a cap as well to fulfill environmental requirements. If the timeline is important and the intent is to build sooner than later, than Mary Dennison should be looked at for a future skatepark. Committee Member Michael Cannon asked Mr. Siedlecki, in his opinion, what location offers him the most creative potential for design to which Mr. Siedlecki explained Farm Pond South and North would be a perfect area due to the space, lack of residential abutters, and views of Farm Pond itself.

Public Input Workshop Discussion

Mr. Siedlecki explained the feedback was a 50/50 split between incorporating street or transition concepts into design, with opinion leaning more towards street concepts. Some people wanted a small bowl but it would take up a large amount of space, limiting what other concepts could be incorporated into the design. He would focus and propose a park that would have more street elements than transition as it was the more popular of the two. He felt he received a good amount of feedback from the residents and has an idea in his head. He will create a plan to show the Committee. He is planning on creating a signature feature for the park unique to Framingham and will have some ideas for another meeting. Mr. Lewis explained this park would be utilized by many different people from skateboarders

to bike riders to people using scooters. Mr. McCarthy discussed issues with traffic flow at parks. Mr. Siedlecki explained he designs parks to accommodate all users, but each person uses facilities differently.

Anticipated Schedule

Mr. Duane explained the schedule right now is a big picture schedule. They are looking to submit a design with budget for this year's Capital Budget. To accomplish this, the Town would need a design package and budget by late February-early March in order to present to the various Town Meeting Committees as well as the CFO's office. Mr. Siedlecki discussed his next steps in which he would create questions for the committee about what they want to have at the site, and then identify the one location to move forward with. He explained the geotechnical studies will occur at that point to know what he will be building on. From there, he can create a more definite park knowing what the surface is going to look like. They will need to finalize the location for geotechnical studies prior to the ground freezing. Mr. Duane asked if there was an opportunity for the Committee to select a final site soon to allow for geotechnical studies while Mr. Siedlecki is creating design and once they know what the ground looks like, he can then customize the design for site specific locations. The Committee discussed potential geotechnical study options and possibly having the studies done at multiple locations. Chairman Smith explained they are not voting on a final site tonight. However, the Committee could ask for geotechnical studies to be done at both Farm Pond locations without voting, in an attempt to expedite the process. Mr. Duane explained it is helpful to have an idea of the design to ensure a geotechnical study is done at the correct areas of the site. Based on the work Mr. Siedlecki's needs to complete, and what the Committee needs to decide on for site location, they could be looking at the first week of January for geotechnical studies. Mr. McCarthy asked if the season has any effect on the study to which Mr. Siedlecki stated it does. Specifically, during the summer the water table is low and opposite during the fall, spring, and winter.

Mr. Smith explained the next meeting would be held January 7th. The Committee and members of the audience discussed potential costs of a skatepark and potential in-kind services that the Town could provide to lessen the expense of a potential park. Mr. Duane cautioned the Committee to remember that Town meeting always funds the entire project and does not rely on grants as a means of funding a project. The funding the SAC will ask Town Meeting for will be the entire cost of the Park to ensure there are no gaps in funding if a grant is not awarded. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Siedlecki for examples of in-kind services done by other communities and stated he would like to have a potential construction cost as soon as possible in order to notify the CFO.

Ms. Grove asked Mr. Siedlecki what the typical cost of items in a park would be, to which Mr. Siedlecki explained it would depend on the complexity of the amenities and scope of the project.

Ms. Bachman asked when the Committee would discuss potential square footage of a park, and if that number would be reflective of total area or only skateable surfaces, to which Mr. Siedlecki explained they are referring to skateable surface only.

Review and Approval of Support Letter for Parks & Recreation's CDBG Application

Committee Member Cheryl Tully Stoll moved that the Skatepark Advisory Committee approve the draft letter of support and give the Chairperson permission to sign it on behalf of the full Committee; Committee Member Kathy Hauck seconded the motion; the Committee voted 7-0-0 in favor of said motion.

Committee Member Michael Cannon moved to adjourn at 8:19 pm; Committee Member Cheryl Tully Stoll seconded the motion; the Committee voted 7-0-0 for said motion;

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Begin

The following documents were distributed to each of the SAC members during the meeting and are available at the Park & Recreation Administration Offices:

1. Draft Letter of Support for Parks & Recreation's CDBG Grant Application for supplemental funding for a Skatepark, 12-6-2015

Skate park Advisory Committee

December 17, 2015 Meeting

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